



NCARNG Weekly Safety Newsletter



October 16, 2015

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For more information
Visit us at [NCGKO](#)
(CAC Login)



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information visit
[US ARMY
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Stay Safe and Warm this Fall

As the weather starts to get cooler, please follow the tips below to make sure your home is ready.

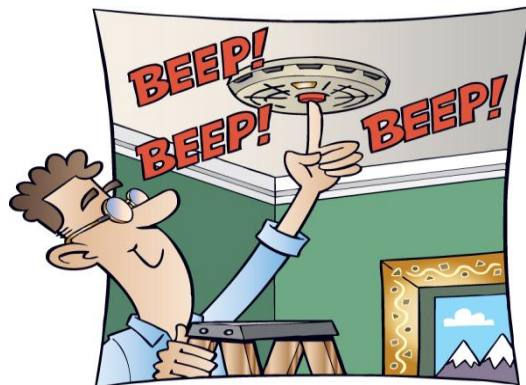
Fireplace Safety Tips

Always follow the directions on the package if you use man-made logs. Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace and be sure the fire is out before retiring for the evening. Always use a sturdy screen when the fireplace is in use. Burn only wood in fireplaces. Make sure the fire is out before leaving the house or going to bed.



Service your Furnace

Before the cold autumn and winter sets in, be sure to call your heating and cooling company to service your furnace. A specialist should inspect the furnace and make sure everything is in working order and that there are no leaks. Always use a bonded, licensed and insured contractor to service, replace or install your gas or electric furnace. Exercise caution when extinguishing or relighting pilot lights on gas furnaces. And if you smell gas, turn off the furnace and immediately leave your home. From a safe place, call both the gas company and the fire department.



Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Maintenance

Fall home maintenance should include checking smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. When it gets colder and heaters and furnaces are operating, the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning dramatically increases. Replace the batteries at least once a year and the entire device every 10 years. Test all of the detectors monthly.

Use Caution with Space Heaters

If you will be using a portable space heater, ensure you follow these safety tips. Always allow at least 3 feet of empty area around space heaters. Plug heaters directly into a wall receptacle and never plug into an extension cord. Heaters should be placed on a flat level surface and never place on top of furniture. Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, do not use in damp, wet areas. If you have a liquid-fueled space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer.

**For more safety information visit www.safety.lovetoknow.com/Fall_Season_Safety_Tips or www.nsc.org





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Drunk Driving

Over the Limit...Under Arrest



Drunk driving—or “**driving while impaired**” (DWI) in North Carolina—is a serious offense that not only can drain your bank account, take away your freedom, and crush your reputation, it also can seriously injure and even kill. **If you think there's only one way you can be charged with drunk driving, think again.** Depending on where you live, a number of behaviors may constitute “driving while impaired” (DWI) in the eyes of the law. What's more, because the definition of DWI is based on blood alcohol content (BAC), you could be legally intoxicated and not even know it! North Carolina drunk driving laws, for example, specify a number of scenarios that can lead to a driver's arrest. From a legal perspective, any driver who has an illegal BAC is deemed impaired, and can therefore be arrested and charged with DWI. Also known as blood-to-alcohol ratio, BAC refers to the amount of alcohol found in a person's bloodstream. In North Carolina, it is illegal to drive a vehicle while noticeably impaired or with an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher. Like most rules, however, there are a few exceptions to the 0.08% limit.

- 21 or Older: 0.08%
- Commercial drivers (CDL): 0.04%
- Younger than 21: Any alcohol concentration
- Prior DWI: 0.04% *

The state also looks at whether your physical or mental fitness is provably impaired by alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both.

* If you have a prior DWI conviction and license reinstatement, you can't drive with a BAC of 0.04% or higher; however, this can depend on your driving record and whether you were charged and convicted after July, 1, 2001.



Understand Your DWI Penalties

NC DWI penalties are serious business. Based on your age, the offense number, and your license type, you face penalties like:

- Fines, including court costs and lawyer fees.
- License suspension or revocation.
- Jail time. For some offenses, the jail time is mandatory rather than possible.
- Community service.
- Higher car insurance rates.



The best answer is not to drink and drive. The State of North Carolina has strict laws for drunk driving, and when you drink and drive in North Carolina, you risk your freedom, finances and your future.

For more information on NC DWI Laws please visit www.ncdps.gov and <http://www.dmv.org/nc-north-carolina/automotive-law/dui.php>